

# HONORING SERVICE, BOOSTING MORALE



EVERY time an "Old Timer" reaches the day of his retirement from the military service, closes his account with the United States army, and leaves for civil parts, it impresses the writer as if an honored athlete had just crossed the finishing line of a grueling race. Many drop out in the early stages of the army marathon, and comparatively few have the fortitude and heart to stick it out.

Those who love the service and give everything, including that greatest of American gifts, individuality, can appreciate the deep sense of duty and loyalty that prompts a man to remain in service to country for more than 20 years. To allow such a one to slip quietly out of camp, with no co-ordinated expression of godspeed from his comrades, seems to border on lack of appreciation of that long, unselfish service, and in these days of constant changes the suggestion may not be amiss.

A sturdy athlete crossing the finish line after covering a long stretch of distance is acclaimed by all his fellows, feted and bedecked with trophies. Would army morals suffer or gain by officially recognizing a retiring soldier in some sort of exercises, with as many as possible attending?

The foregoing is an editorial in the Bridgehead Sentinel, the weekly newspaper of the First Division. It was written by Lieut. E. Goyne, the editor, in view of what it brought about, it is important. Anyway, it sets forth the soldiers' viewpoint. They will tell you their "honoring service" "boosts morale."

Over at Camp Dix the other day the Sixteenth Infantry of the First Division swept across the parade grounds in a regimental review. It was the first review of the Sixteenth, since it moved into Camp Dix, after getting home from the Rhine valley. A sight to thrill the military heart it was—regimental band playing, wives and sweethearts grouped about the parade ground where this unit of the first American forces sent to France under General Pershing marched with the precision of overseas veterans. But why the parade? Well, that's why the foregoing editorial is important. Charles W. Duke tells about it in the Philadelphia Public Ledger thus:

In close column of masses, with Major Smith's second battalion on the right, Major Jones' first battalion in the center and Major Davidson's third battalion on the left, the Sixteenth Infantry falls into line, right dresses and stands motionless awaiting developments. What is coming? There is Colonel Lacey in command of his regiment. There also is Major General C. P. Summerall, veteran leader of the First Division. Surely something special is up.

While the troops stand at attention, eyes front, ears alert to hear what is said, Lieutenant G. T. Phillips' lips begin to move. He is reading general orders No. 5. And what do you suppose general orders No. 5 is all about? Nothing about a new President or a new general or a distinguished foreign visitor or a new assignment for service. These general orders are announcing the retirement from the United States army after a long period of service of a solitary sergeant major—a non-commissioned officer who has toiled away down in the ranks for more than twenty-three years!

Sergeant Major Brannan. "Shades of democracy! Can it be possible that all this fuss and feathers is in honor of a single soldier of the line—a noncommissioned officer?"

True enough; there he stands by the side of Colonel Lacey. He is Sergeant Major William F. ("Jack") Brannan, of regimental headquarters, forty-nine years and four months old, a sturdy son of the western plains and a soldier in the United States army in almost continuous service since 1898. While in the service of Uncle Sam our friend "Jack" has trod the soil of Cuba, Alaska, the Philippines, Hawaii, Mexico and Europe. Here is his record for service as they read it off:

First Colorado Volunteer Infantry—April, 1898, to September 9, 1899.

Battery A, Eighth Field Artillery—October 29, 1900, to October 28, 1903.

Company F, Nineteenth Infantry—December 12, 1904, to December 17, 1907.

N. C. S., Nineteenth Infantry—December 18, 1907, to December 17, 1910.

N. C. S., Eighth Infantry—December 29, 1910, to December 28, 1913.

N. C. S., Sixteenth Infantry—August 15, 1915, to May 15, 1918.

Headquarters Company, Sixteenth Infantry—May 5, 1918, to August 1, 1919.

Re-enlisted in Nieuwied, Germany, August 2, 1919, for retirement.

They are telling the world how faithful this man Brannan has been. Never once has he flinched. On all his honorable discharges he has received character "excellent." From the day his regiment was thrown into the advance against the Hindenburg line at Chemin-des-Dames on through the Argonne campaign until the Germans were given refuge in armistice Sergeant Major Brannan was in the thick of the fighting.

For conspicuous bravery in battle he was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with palms. His life was continually endangered, but he escaped it all with nary a scratch. Now he has reached the end of his contract of service and is going to retire. He has served in all, including double time for foreign service, twenty-three years with the army of Uncle Sam. Now he is leaving for the West to pick up his mother and sister back

home in Cherokee, Ind., and take them with him out to California, where he is to invest his nest egg in a farm "and live happily ever afterward."

"We are here honoring service," says General Summerall. "No army is stronger than its non-commissioned officers," says General Edwards, late commander of the Twenty-sixth Division, now commanding a brigade of the First Division. "In his humble capacity this man Brannan has served through all these years. None of the glitter and glory has been his—just plain every-day, old-fashioned hard work. All honor to the noncoms! They are the chaps who build patriotism, who uphold morale, the very sinew of the army. That's why they are honoring Brannan in this way."

Every Man Contributes. The lieutenant has stopped reading general order No. 5. He turns to Sergeant Major Brannan. He hands him a purse of gold—some hundreds of dollars in all. Every man in the gallant Sixteenth and many more friends all through the First Division have contributed out of their pay. It is their way of expressing esteem and friendship for "Jack" Brannan. The hand of the veteran trembles a bit as he accepts it. The moisture of the eye is more eloquent than the words that fall from his lips—for he is not given to speaking. His long suit is service.

"Attention!" the cry swings out over the review field. A word of command, the band begins to play and at the call of "Shoulder arms," the rifles swing into position. In another moment the Sixteenth Regiment is on the march. They are passing in review before Sergeant Major Brannan. He who has served unostentatiously in the ranks all these years is standing by the side of his colonel watching his comrades of the World war swing by in review! These boys who helped hurt back the millions of German autocracy and then passed in review before the crowned heads of Europe are now passing in review before a "noncom" sergeant major!

Company after company they are coming on. They give him the "eyes right" as they pass before him. But Sergeant Major Brannan's eyes are not "right." He who has laughed at the whine of a Heine's shell or stood impassive before the spectacle of his pals struck down in cold blood or stolidly served on the lonely watch through all these years without the flickering of an eyelash, now stands with great tears coursing down his cheeks.

Good-bye and Good Luck.

Soon it is over—and then comes the flood! As though he were one lone "enemy" against thousands, those doughboys of the Sixteenth swarm about him. They salute him, they grasp his hand, they wish him good-by and good luck. The good right arm is pumped until it is sore and aching. The general himself comes to salute this veteran "noncom." It was the general himself who ordered the demonstration.

"The departure of such a soldier as you is a loss not only to the division, but to the army," says General Summerall, as he wrings the hand of the veteran noncom.

The sergeant major has returned to his barracks and emerges clad in civilian clothes—the habiliments of a citizen. The khaki suit and the decorations are folded away within the bag. He is gone, but not forgotten, for "Jack" Brannan was a personality. In his quiet way he was the friend of everybody. From the viewpoint of the commanding officer this noncommissioned officer ever exemplified the loyal service that is pertinent to the life of the army. His life is a shining light to all who follow after in the ranks of service.

white in a blue field. . . . That on the admission of every new state into the Union one star be added to the union of the flag; and that such addition shall take effect on the Fourth of July next succeeding such admission." The act was approved by President Monroe.

No Fear of 13. There may be superstitions connected with numbers 13 and 23, but hotel guests seldom express them when rooms bearing hoodoo numbers

are assigned to them, say hotel clerks. The direction of the bed in the rooms or the amount of light is the basis for more superstition than jinx numerals, the clerks declare. Dark rooms, the guests object, are "spooky," and they do not care to occupy them. Their protest against the direction in which a bed is pointing is made on the ground that it is hard for them to sleep with their heads lying in an unaccustomed direction, and furthermore an ill omen is attached to doing it.

## AN ALL-AROUND LEGION MAN

Michigan's Newly Appointed Head of National Service Division is Equipped With Information.



A sailor, a traffic cop, a first sergeant, an assistant provost marshal and a patient in army hospitals for almost two years, Albert E. Haan of Michigan, newly appointed head of the American Legion's national service division, is well equipped to minister to the needs of ex-service men.

Mr. Haan gained the rank of captain on the battlefield and was severely wounded in action at Juvigny, France, while serving with the Thirty-second division. In Walter Reed hospital, Washington, for more than a year, he found out what the government intended to do for the wounded by studying plans and legislation concerning the subject. Discharged from the hospital last fall, he was made a special representative of the bureau of war risk insurance.

In army and navy camps he was instrumental, through the American Legion, in causing the reinstatement or conversion of \$5,000,000 in war risk insurance. In Michigan last November, as field representative of the war risk bureau, he directed a cleanup of hospital, insurance and compensation claims that placed the state ahead of all others in welfare accomplishments.

During the campaign he investigated the condition of ex-service men in the state prison at Jackson and the insane asylum in Kalamazoo. He worked with the Legion's welfare department to cause the parole of 150 men last year to the Legion. He obtained \$300,000 in funds raised during the war and used it in settling claims, relief of the disabled and their dependents and in untangling insurance difficulties and remedying hospital conditions.

Mr. Haan is twenty-eight years old. Coming out of high school, he entered the United States navy as an apprentice seaman. He served four years on the U. S. S. Idaho and was discharged as a quartermaster, second class. He then became a motor and traffic policeman in Grand Rapids, Mich. In 1916, he went to the Mexican border as a first sergeant in the Michigan infantry. Before he entered the lines in France, he was assistant provost marshal at St. Nazaire, as a first lieutenant. Before the battle in which he was wounded, he had served in three offensives.

## BOOKS FOR DISABLED HEROES

Congress Appropriates \$100,000 for Reading Material for Soldiers Confined to Hospitals.

Disabled heroes of the World war are not to be without good books to read while they are fighting to regain health in the hospitals of this country. Congress has appropriated in the civil sundry bill the sum of \$100,000 for the purchase of books, with the result that each of the 23,000 disabled veterans will soon have three or four new books to read.

The American Library association, which still has charge of the libraries in the larger hospitals, has been embarrassed by a shortage of funds, and up to this time posts of the American Legion have taken over the duty of supplying books to the disabled in hundreds of the smaller hospitals. The appropriation by congress does not mean that either the services of the American Library association or the American Legion in this respect are to be dispensed with, but that they are to be greatly augmented and reinforced.

## CREED OF THE DISABLED MAN

Afflicted Fellows of Washington, D. C., Post, Look on Brighter Side of Things.

Disabled veterans of the World war, nearly all of them overseas veterans and members of the Walter Reed post of the American Legion in Washington, D. C., have adopted what they term, "The Creed of the Disabled Man," which, called to the attention of President Harding upon a recent visit to the hospital, was by the President pronounced fine. The "creed" reads as follows:

Once more to be useful—to see pity in the eyes of my friends replaced with commendation—to work, produce, provide and to feel that I have a place in the world, seeking no favors and given none—a man among men in spite of this physical handicap.

Cost of Living in Paris. The cost of living in Paris is not exorbitant for an American, who is paid in American dollars, according to a letter from a member of the Paris Post of the American Legion.

"Beware the big restaurants and duck into the side streets unfrequented by tourists," the veteran warns. "I had a fine meal today for 8.50 francs, or about fifty cents."

"The menu included: Friture de la Loire, 1.50 francs; omelette champagne, 2.25 francs; Chateaubriand (which is fried spuds and watercress), 2.50 francs; celeri braise, 75 centimes; macaroni, 75 centimes and fromage, 75 centimes."

"And after the meal, cafe cognac for 95 centimes!"

# THE TRIALS OF A HOUSEWIFE

How They Have Been Endured and How Overcome by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound

## Experience of a Providence Woman



Providence, R. I.—"I took Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound for a female trouble and backache. It began just after my baby was born, and I did the best I could about getting my work done, but I had awful bearing-down pains so I could not stand on my feet. I read in the papers about Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound and the good it was doing other women, and I have got dandy results from it and will always recommend it. You can use these facts as a testimonial if you wish."—Mrs. HERBERT L. CASSEN, 18 Meni Court, Providence, R. I.

Ohio woman for three years could hardly keep about and do her housework she was so ill. Made well by Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound: Fayette, O.—"For about three years I was very nervous and had backache, sideache, dragging-down pains, could not sleep at night, and had no appetite. At times I could hardly do my housework. I got medicine from the doctor but it did not help me. I saw Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound advertised in a newspaper and took it with good results, and am now able to do my housework. I recommend your medicine to my friends and you may publish my testimonial."—Mrs. CHESTER A. BALL, R. 15, Fayette, Ohio.

An Illinois woman relates her experience: Bloomington, Ill.—"I was never very strong and female trouble kept me so weak I had no interest in my housework. I had such a backache I could not cook a meal or sweep a room without raging with pain. Rubbing my back with alcohol sometimes eased the pain for a few hours, but did not stop it. I heard of Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound, and six bottles of it have made me as strong and healthy as any woman; and I give my thanks to it for my health."—Mrs. J. A. McQUITTY, 610 W. Walnut St., Bloomington, Ill.

The conditions described by Mrs. Cassen, Mrs. Ball, and Mrs. McQuitty will appeal to many women who struggle on with their daily tasks in just such conditions—in fact, it is said that the tragedy in the lives of some women is almost beyond belief. Day in and day out they slave in their homes for their families—and beside the daily routine of housework, often make clothes for themselves and for their children, or work in their gardens, all the while suffering from those awful bearing-down pains, backache, headaches, nervousness, the blues, and troubles which sap the very foundation of life until there comes a time when nature gives out and an operation seems inevitable. If such women would only profit by the experience of these three women, and remember that Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound is the natural restorative for such conditions it may save them years of suffering and unhappiness.

There is hardly a neighborhood in any town or hamlet in the United States wherein some woman does not reside who has been restored to health by this famous medicine. Therefore ask your neighbor, and you will find in a great many cases that at some time or other she, too, has been benefited by taking it, and will recommend it to you. For more than forty years this old-fashioned root and herb medicine has been restoring suffering women to health and strength.

Lydia E. Pinkham's Private Text-Book upon "Ailments Peculiar to Women" will be sent to you free upon request. Write to The Lydia E. Pinkham Medicine Co., Lynn, Massachusetts. This book contains valuable information.



## Spohn's Distemper Compound

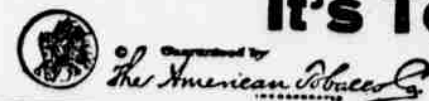
will knock it in very short time. At the first sign of a cough or cold in your horse, give a few doses of "SPOHN'S." It will act on the glands, eliminate the disease germ and prevent further destruction of body by disease. "SPOHN'S" has been the standard remedy for DISTEMPER, INFLUENZA, PINK EYE, CATARRH, FEVER, COUGHS and COLIC for a quarter of a century. 60 cents and \$1.15 per bottle at all drug stores. SPOHN MEDICAL COMPANY, GOSHEN, IND.

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## The Flag of Our Country

The United States flag, as finally adopted by congress, was raised over the house of representatives at Washington, on April 13, 1818. On March 1 of the same year congress had enacted a law which fixes the form of the flag for all time. "From and after the fourth day of July the flag of the United States be 13 horizontal stripes, alternately red and white; but the union have 20 stars,